the ESI Scheme, when they render services in the premises of factories establishments covered under the Scheme.

The extension of ESI Scheme is a continuous process.

Rise in the consumer price Index

1933. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inflation rate based on the consumer Price Index (CPI) has been rising for the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof month-wise; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to reduce the inflation rate by controlling the prices of agricultural and other goods?

: THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The rate of inflation based on the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers for the last six months (May—October, 2001) is given below:

May, 2001	2.50%
June, 2001	3.39%
July, 2001	4.04%
August, 2001	5.14%
September, 2001	4.73%
October, 2001	4.23%

(c) Government constantly maintain a close watch on the price and availability of essential commodities in the country. Apart from certain long-term measures for augmenting the production of essential commodities in the country, imports of items like pulses and edible oils are allowed to augment their availability. Export of onion are regulated through quantitative restrictions. Essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene are also being supplied through the outlets of Public Distribution System at below market prices. Stringent action is taken against hoarders black-marketeers and othefs indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential

Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing & Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act by the State/Union Territories Governments.

Employment Exchanges in the Country

1934. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment exchange functioning in the country;

(b) how many of those are located in the tribal areas indicating locations, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have assessed the percentage of the unemployed youths registered in various employment exchanges in the country during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof, trade and State-wise; and

(e) the various job categories that are being informed to the registered persons through the employment exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Number of Employment Exchanges functioning in the country as on 31st August 2001 is 938.

(b) All the Employment Exchanges register candidates belonging to all categories including the Scheduled Tribes. The exact details of the employment Exchanges exclusively located in the Tribal dominated areas are not maintained.

(c) and (d) As per the survey carried out in 1988, about 56% of the job seekers registered with Employment Exchanges were unemployed as per Usual Status Approach. Percentage of unemployed job seekers in each occupation is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(e) About 77% of vacancies are notified by the public sector as against 23% by private sector.